

**U.S. Embassy Brings Latin Jazz Music to Macedonia  
Agora Latin Jazz Quartet to Play in Tetovo, Strumica and Skopje  
February 10, 11 and 12, 2006**

February 8, 2006

The Embassy of the United States of America is pleased to announce the 2006 American Music Abroad Program in Macedonia.

This year's program features outstanding musical groups from the U.S. performing Latin jazz. The Agora Latin Jazz Quartet will perform three concerts in Macedonia. Their appearances here are part of a regional tour that also includes performances in Turkey, Greece and Pristina.

The American Music Abroad Program in Macedonia will start with a concert at the Cultural Center in Tetovo, at 20:00 on Friday, February 10. The quartet will then perform at the Cultural Center in Strumica, at 20:00 on Saturday, February 11. The group's program in Macedonia will conclude with a concert at Mladinski Kulturen Centar in Skopje, at 20:00 on Sunday, February 12.

Tickets for the concerts are free, and the concerts are open to the general public. Tickets can be picked up at ticket booths at each center, as long as tickets are available.

The Agora Latin Jazz Quartet also will conduct a master class at the Music High School in Skopje. Class will be held from 10:00-12:15 on Friday, February 10.

The group's program in Macedonia is being carried out in partnership with the Municipality of Tetovo, the Municipality of Strumica, and the Youth Cultural Center in Skopje.

The Agora Latin Jazz Quartet consists of guitarist Clay Ross; bassist Solomon Dorsey; drummer Scott Kettner; and Nate Shaw on keyboard. They were selected as an outstanding young jazz group following a series of auditions and were invited to participate in the American Music Abroad Program.

The American Music Abroad Program, a successor to the Jazz Ambassadors Program, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and coordinated by Jazz at Lincoln Center, in New York. The program seeks to bring some of the finest American jazz musicians to countries throughout the world, so that audiences can experience the sound and feeling of jazz and can interact with the musicians.

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Journalists who wish to cover the master class on February 10 and the concert in Skopje on February 12 should call the Embassy's Office of Public Affairs at 3116-80, extensions 2126 and 2150, for accreditation no later than 15:00 on February 9.

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